

WITH THE FARMERS

By Prof. W. F. MASSEY



Plant for Name.
From Buckingham County: "I enclose a specimen of a plant of which there is a good deal mixed with my hay. Please tell me what it is, and if it is injurious to horses." This is the same plant that has been coming to me from all over the state and elsewhere, and it seems to have appeared in many new places. It is trifolium clover, commonly called rabbitfoot clover. Its gray heads easily distinguish it from other clovers, and while it is a true clover, it does not make a heavy enough crop to be of much value. What you have in the hay will only add value to it, for the rabbitfoot clover is good as far as it goes. It is found of sandy land, and where I live it covers almost every waste space. But it is never a nuisance.

How to Start Seed in Hot Weather.
"I have great success in growing lettuce and other small seeds to grow in hot weather for the fall planting. What is the best way to do it? There are several ways. Where one has a greenhouse I find no sort of difficulty in getting lettuce and other small seeds started in shallow boxes under shaded glass. But where there is no greenhouse, but you have a hotbed frame, make a sash about the same size as the usual glass sashes by nailing building lath about an inch apart to two side strips. Sow the seed thinly in the frame, after watering the soil well and letting it settle for half a day. Then place the lath screen over the frame and the seed will usually germinate well.

But if you have no frame you can prepare a border in the garden, preferably on the northeast side of a building or board fence, where the sun will not strike it too much, and sow the seed thinly. Then cover the bed with old fertilizer sacks, and water on these. The sacks will hold the moisture and prevent crusting, and the seed will germinate readily. But as it germinates do not at once remove the cover or the sun will kill the plants.

But as you notice the seed germinating, prop up the sacks as a shade till the leaves get good and green, and then expose them. Even at that stage it is well to use a slight shade such as thin cheesecloth hung over the bed of sticks. Retaining moisture and shading from the sun are the means for getting seed started in hot weather. I use the sacks in starting pansy seed in late July for setting on the beds in the fall for early spring flowers, and in fact for starting any small seed in the heat of summer, though I have a small greenhouse and now some things there.

Buckwheat Once More.
"My attention has been called to the fact that buckwheat is recommended as being a profitable grain crop, green manure, bee and hog food. I am particularly interested in it as a green manure crop. I am planning to sow rye and crimson clover to turn under for corn, and wonder if it would be worth while to sow all three on the same land at the same time, or would it be better to sow a patch of buckwheat alone as bee pasture. I have just mown two acres of oats and vetch, and expect to have it there soon. From my experience with this patch I am sure that it pays to inoculate the seed, and I intend to inoculate all I sow this fall. When should the two acres I have mown be prepared for reseed? As regards buckwheat, it is a good crop for bee pasture, and sowings could be made at intervals from early till late to keep up a bloom for the bees. But as a green manure crop, buckwheat is far inferior to cowpeas. You would simply get a lot of vegetable matter that has taken all its nitrogen from the soil, while if you sowed peas they would add nitrogen to the soil from that gathered from the air, and you would gain many times as much not only in nitrogen, but in the amount of vegetable matter, for the peas will make a far heavier growth than the buckwheat. Then, too, as pasture for hogs, there is no sort of comparison between the value of peas and buckwheat, for the peas would make probably four times the amount of gain on the hogs that buckwheat would. Buckwheat is used largely in Delaware and Maryland as a nurse crop for crimson clover, and it answers this purpose very well. You can sow a bushel an acre in late July or even early August, and then sow the clover seed on it and brush it in with a smoothing harrow, and the quick growth of the buckwheat will furnish a good protection to the clover from the sun. But I would leave out the rye. In this way you can get a crop of buckwheat grain while getting the clover. Whether it will be a profitable crop or not, as compared with other grain crops in your section, I cannot say. On the high Alleghany plateau in the northwestern part of North Carolina, buckwheat is a common crop, as the climatic conditions there are unfavorable to corn. But buckwheat in the hot growing section is more a catch crop than anything else.

Now as to the vetch. You will not need any reworking on the two acres you have cut for the vetch. It will be a valuable pasture for many years, and will come stronger than ever in the fall. There is no doubt that inoculation with a live culture is of great advantage where the legume has not before been grown on the soil. After one has gotten a place of land well inoculated he can use the soil from that portion on other land by scattering a barrel an acre, and harrowing it in at once to prevent the sun from destroying the bacteria.

The Greatest Seed of Southern Soils.
The soils of the South differ widely in origin and formation from the soil found north of Virginia and Maryland. The ancient glaciers ground by the Northern soils, and made them fine and compact, and now and then the heavy snowfall packs down the forest leaves to decay and make the living soil of to-day, well filled with vegetable decay, which for centuries we call humus.

In the South the conditions have been different. The clay and sand, granite, derived largely from the decomposed rock of the locality, and never transported and ground by the glaciers, is of a coarser texture, and hence far more easily washed into gullies, from the lack of the grinding and mixture of transported soil. The open forests on the hillsides lack the heavy snowfalls and the dry leaves blow to the lower lands, so that in the virgin state, there is less of the humus-making material on our uplands than in the North.

The Result of Bad Practices.

But the Southern uplands were productive when newly cleared, but the old plantation practice rapidly used up the smaller amount of humus till finally there was left the old dead mixture of sand and clay, and the "old field" was turned out for nature to redeem with broomsedge and pine trees, and but for the broomsedge and the pine trees, what a howling wilderness there would be in many parts of the South.

We Must Beat Nature at Her Own Game.
Through long years the broomsedge and the pine trees will restore the humus, the growth need of our soils, but the wise farmer can do the same thing through a well-devised rotation of crops, the growing and feeding of the legumes and the making of manure. By this means we can build up the soil a few years before nature will do it in a score of years.

There are no worn-out lands. There are deep sands that never had much in them of plant food, but soils originally fertile and of a good mechanical composition cannot be completely worn out, for nature puts a stop to the robbery and locks up the remainder in an insoluble state, only to be released by the man wise enough to put the organic decay, with its stored acids, to loosen the lock. There is not a red clay hill in Virginia, unless it has been washed into hopeless gullies, but can be restored and brought to the highest state of production if properly farmed. In fact we can greatly increase the humus content in our soils above what they naturally contained when virgin, and the legume crops and cattle will furnish the means to do this with the legume crops alone, added with chemical fertilizers, but as a matter of business farming, it is far more economical to use the legume crops to feed stock than to use them as manure direct. It is a living soil we need, a soil well filled with organic decay, the home of the millions of bacteria that work for the farmer, but are starved out when the humus is burnt out of the soil. The greatest need then of the South is the restoration and maintenance of the new ground conditions that formerly existed, and increasing them.

The Advantage the South Has.
The great advantage the South has for the building up of her worn lands over the North lies in the greater abundance and variety of the legume crops that can be grown here. The complex is in its native home, and the crimson clover, the vetch, the alfalfa, the Southern winter vetches here and there, enable us more rapidly to get back the humus than can be done in a cold climate. And yet all over the South men are trying to galvanize a peninsula of life the old dead mixture of sand and clay, with a cold dependence on commercial fertilizers. I have no fight to make against commercial fertilizers. They are indispensable in our modern farming, and can be made the means for greatly increasing the productivity of the land when properly and liberally used. But used merely to bring a little more out of a run-down soil without any idea as to its permanent improvement, though I have become the means for impoverishing the farm and the farmer, while used in a rational way, and liberally used, they can be made the means for greatly increasing the productivity of the soil and putting profit in the farmer's pocket.

But to do this the farmer must be a farmer, and not a mere planter. And we have too many planters and too few farmers, and it is the object of the publication of these columns to do what we can to make people abandon the old planting ideas and go into real farming.

Virginia's greatest wealth is in her soil. Good farming on all her lands means prosperity to all the people of the state, for all will prosper when the farmer thrives.

Bacteria for Alfalfa.
"Kindly tell me what other legumes carry the same bacteria that live on the roots of alfalfa? The Medicago, commonly known as sweet clover, which abounds in many places as a weed, carries the same bacterium as alfalfa. This scarlet-burr, called Medicago dentata, is a near relative to alfalfa, which is Medicago sativa, and if the seed of the burr clover are sown in the burr they will carry the inoculation for alfalfa.

"Though I am not very much of a farmer at present, I read what you write in The Times-Dispatch. You mention the Citrus trifoliata as a defensive hedge plant, and I would like to know where to get the best or plan to get it. I suppose that any of the Richmond seedsmen can get the seed for you in the fall. It is necessary to keep the seed in moist sand during the winter, as they will hardly grow if allowed to get completely dry. Hence, it would be as well to try to get the fruit in the fall and let it rot down and wash out the seed in the spring. I do not care to advertise doing here, but any of the leading Southern nurseries can supply the plants cheaply. One year-old plants should be planted.

Weed in Alfalfa.
From Southampton County: "I am sending you by mail under separate cover a bunch of grass, which has this year appeared in an alfalfa field, which was sown in the fall of 1911. We, in this section, term this water grass, but, thinking we may be mistaken, I am sending it to you, and will thank you to let me know what it is, and how is the best way to eradicate it from the alfalfa field. The land on which it grows is a heavy clay subsoil, with fairly heavy top soil, but is thoroughly underdrained with the tile, and I cannot understand, if it is water grass, why it should make its appearance in this land? It is the common practice to call everything that grows in a grassy appearance grass. But if you will examine this plant, you will find that the leaves are round, and there are no joints. Grass always grows in joints. Hence, your plant is not a grass at all. It is one of the Rush family, but which I am unable to say without the flower heads. But it is a plant that delights in wet land, and its growing there shows that the soil is not as well drained as you suppose. Perhaps the tiles have not been in long enough to completely lower the water table, or are not deep enough in the ground to get the water down low enough to discourage water plants. The only way to get rid of it is to pull it out before it seeds, and then by watching carefully, prevent its getting a start. Another variety of this plant grows tall, and is the material used in making what are called Crex rugs and carpets.

Children Cry FOR FLETCHER'S CASTORIA

JOHN POWELL IS NOW A WRESTLER

Richmond Musician Stirs Up London With Ideas of Athletic Art.



John Powell, the Richmond pianist and composer, whose reputation is world-wide, has gone in for wrestling, and has entered at the Turnfest at Leipzig.

Mr. Powell has the idea that the artistic body should be strong in order to express the artistic mind may be in good trim.

If any enthusiastic mat artist should get gay and chew one of Mr. Powell's fingers, the artist would have every right to raise a howl in high C. Concerning his plan to organize a Fresh Air Art Society, in which he is being assisted by Warrington Dawson, a Southern man, who was educated at McCabe's School, here in Richmond, a London telegram states: John Powell believes that an artist is too apt to lose the sane and necessary appreciation of life and health in too exclusive attention and devotion to work, and that from this result the eccentricities and exaggerations, often associated with the works of an artist.

Mr. Powell was interviewed as he was about to leave for the Turnfest at Leipzig, where he is entered as a wrestler.

"The aim of the Fresh Air Art Society," he said, "is to make artists realize that life itself is the greatest thing. An artist who lives only for art cuts himself off not only from life, but eventually from real art as well, because he becomes narrow and eccentric. The result is that his art degenerates into a mere struggle for self-advertising instead of being a generous and free gift of one mind to many minds which hunger. Art, being one with life, can only thrive, therefore, when it has health for its basis. A healthy mind depends upon healthy intercourse with life. One cannot be healthy in art unless one is healthy in mind. One cannot be healthy in mind unless one is healthy in body."

"The first thing I did was to make the members of the society join a gymnasium. Our purpose, however, is not to start a new athletic movement. We mean to work out our theories figuratively rather than literally. I, for instance, took up wrestling simply as an antidote to the tremendous nervous reaction following hard piano work. Now I like it for its own sake."

Lord Plymouth consented to become the first active member. Lord Windsor is an honorary member. Henry James is interested. Mrs. John R. Green has promised to join us. We have invited also August Rodin and Theodore Roosevelt, but have not yet had time to hear from them.

"Joseph Conrad came to London for the first meeting in Queen's Hall, at which Lord Plymouth presided. At that meeting a declaration of principles, drawn up by Warrington Dawson, who is largely responsible for the society's existence, was adopted."

Two firemen had narrow escapes from serious injury and probably death yesterday morning shortly before 11 o'clock when a ladder on which they were standing broke while fighting fire in a watchhouse on the Chesapeake and Ohio Railway viaduct at Eighteenth and Dock Streets. But for a light hand and rail on the structure both would have fallen to the ground, a distance of about forty feet. As it was they tumbled about fifteen feet to the floor of the high trestle and were badly injured.

Those injured were Lieutenant J. N. Fagan, of Engine Company No. 1, and Lieutenant E. W. Hall, of Engine Company No. 2. Fagan was hurt about the left hip and shoulder and was removed to his home, 2111 East Franklin Street, in Assistant Chief Ruffo's car. Hall sprained both feet. It is expected the injuries will be relieved of duty for several days.

The two men were standing on the ladder, Fagan holding a chemical stream and Hall a heavy water line. Without warning, the ladder suddenly snapped in two, and they fell. Hall clung to the hose and this somewhat broke his fall, but Fagan was unable to prevent himself from falling heavily.

The fire, which nearly consumed the watchhouse, doing damage of about \$125, was started by sparks from a passing locomotive. Engine Companies Nos. 1, 2, 3, and No. 2 had responded to an alarm which was sounded from box No. 219, Seventeenth and Dock Streets. The blaze was put out in a few minutes.

RODE WOMAN ON RAIL; DUCKED HER

Declared She Flirted With Brother-in-Law While Crippled Husband Suffered.

The town of Volo, near Chicago, is having a female riot, and woman's suffrage has nothing to do with the commotion.

Sixteen of the society women of Volo declared that Mrs. John H. Richardson was neglecting her ill husband and gadding about with her brother-in-law. These sixteen, acting as judges, jury and executioners, rode Mrs. Richardson on a rail and half-drowned her afterwards by dumping her in a mud-puddle.

Richardson says she knows all sixteen assailants and will see what the law can do to give her satisfaction.

In the meanwhile she denounces the sixteen as meddlesome cats who would rather because she refused to gossip and play cards with them.

Repairing Police Signal System.

Many of the lines of the police patrol telegraph system, which were put out of commission by the severe electrical storm last Thursday night, have been repaired, and yesterday were reported by the department's electrical inspector, E. G. Thompson, to be in working order. All of the wire that will be remedied early this week, Thompson said.

The Richmond Times-Dispatch's Great Booklovers' Contest Game STARTS JULY 27th.

FIRST PRIZE	\$300.00	IN GOLD
SECOND PRIZE	\$200.00	IN GOLD
THIRD PRIZE	\$150.00	IN GOLD
FOURTH PRIZE	\$100.00	IN GOLD
FIFTH PRIZE	\$50.00	IN GOLD
SIXTH PRIZE	\$50.00	IN GOLD
SEVENTH, EIGHTH, NINTH AND TENTH PRIZES ARE EACH	\$25.00	IN GOLD
ELEVENTH TO TWENTIETH PRIZES ARE EACH	\$10.00	IN GOLD
TWENTY-FIRST TO FIFTIETH PRIZES ARE EACH	\$5.00	IN GOLD

\$1200.00 In Gold---Divided Into Fifty Prizes

Take a good shrewd look at the picture below. It is a sample of the sort of pictures that will appear in the Richmond Times-Dispatch Booklovers' Contest Game. We are using it as an object lesson to show you how to solve the actual contest pictures when they are printed. Picture No. 1 will appear July 27th.

You don't have to know anything about books to win a prize, for the pictures will represent only the titles of books. The pictures will have nothing to do with the contents of books.

Isn't the picture clear and plain? Doesn't it fit the title like a glove fits the hand?

Every picture in the contest—there will be seventy-seven in all—will be just as plain and clear.

You don't have to subscribe. You don't have to solicit or canvass.

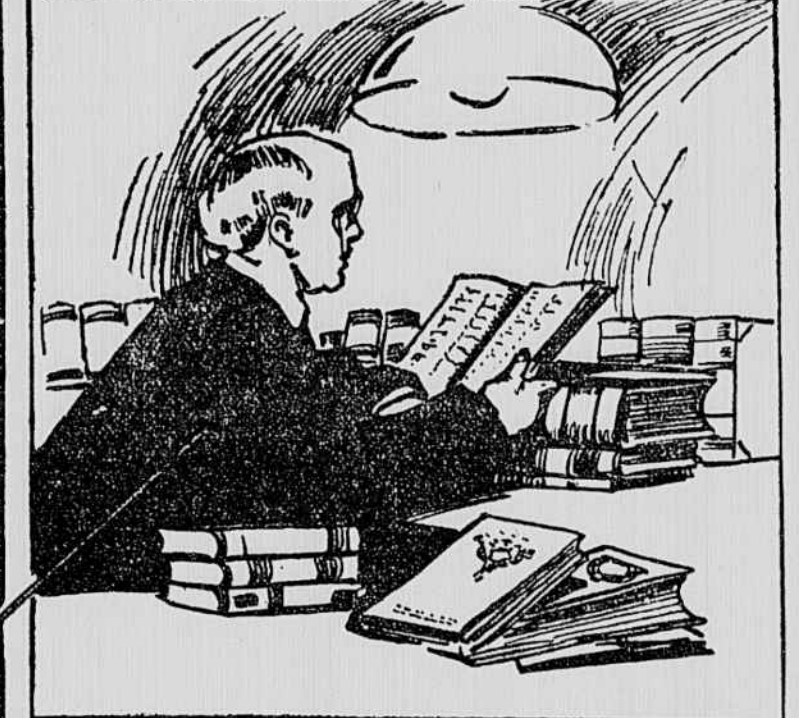
Simply solve each picture as it appears each day in The Richmond Times-Dispatch.

OBJECT LESSON NO. 1.



The Richmond Times-Dispatch's \$1200.00 Booklovers' Contest Game

Picture No. Date



WHAT BOOK DOES THIS PICTURE REPRESENT.

Title Among My Books
Author J. R. Lowell
Your Name Bethie Nichols
Street and Number 50 Eddy St.
City or Town _____

HERE ARE THE RULES.

The contest is open to all readers of this paper. Only Times-Dispatch employees and members of their families are barred. Daily for 77 days will be published in The Times-Dispatch a picture representing the title of a book, one each day. Beneath this picture will be a coupon to fill in with the name of the book and the author, together with the name and address of entrant.

Cut out the picture and coupon, filling in the book title and author's name, writing your name and address neatly and plainly in the place provided.

No restrictions are placed on the manner in which answers to pictures are secured. Each picture represents the title of one book only. If you are not certain of your solution you may send in one to ten answers to the picture. NO MORE THAN TEN ANSWERS WILL BE ACCEPTED TO A PICTURE. Incorrect answers will not count against contestant if correct answer is also given. And put one answer to each picture and coupon. Extra coupons must be secured and used for extra answers. All answers to each picture must be kept together in compiling your set.

Additional pictures and coupons may be obtained at The Times-Dispatch office, by mail or by person. Answers will not be accepted unless they are properly filled out on the coupons appearing beneath each picture. It is necessary that pictures be sent in with the answers in order that all answers may be uniform.

When you have all 77 answers, fasten them together and bring them or mail them in a neat flat package—not folded or rolled—to The Times-Dispatch office, addressed "BOOKLOVERS' CONTEST EDITOR." Prizes will be awarded contestants sending in the largest number of correct solutions. In the event of two or more persons having the same number of correct solutions, the person using the smallest number of extra coupons on the set of answers will be declared the winner. In the event of two or more persons having the same number of correct solutions, and using the same number of coupons, an equal interest in the prizes tied for will be given to each of the tying contestants, or the persons involved in the tie may choose any one of the lesser prizes.

More than one prize will not be awarded to any one family at one address, but each member of the family may enter the contest and submit a complete set.

Only one complete set (comprising not more than ten answers to any one picture) of answers may be submitted by a contestant. Awards will be made strictly according to the merit of each separate list. The names of more than one person must not be written on any one coupon.

All answers will be considered on their merits. The first set filed will have no preference over the last set filed; provided only that answers must be filed within the time specified after the last picture has appeared.

The awards will be made by the Contest Editor and three well-known citizens whose names will be announced later.

The correct answers to the series of pictures will be filed with a local trust company or bank previous to the close of the contest.

Entry to the contest may be made at any time. All communications or letters of inquiry concerning the contest should be addressed to the Booklovers' Contest Editor, The Times-Dispatch.

Safeguarding the Contest

Three of Richmond's prominent men will judge this Booklovers' Game.

The judges in The Richmond Times-Dispatch's Great \$1,200.00 Booklovers' Contest will be announced later on in the contest.

In other cities the judges in Booklovers' Contests were Governors of States, Judges of the Supreme Court, the Mayors of cities, Postmasters, Clergymen, Priests, etc.

The judges in The Times-Dispatch's Contest will be men of absolute integrity and of the highest standing.

Some time before the end of the contest the complete list of seventy-seven book titles, with the names of the authors, will be deposited in a local bank under the direction of the publisher of this paper and the three judges.

The list of correct titles will not be withdrawn until all sets of answers have been received and entered on a record. THE SYSTEM THAT WILL BE USED WILL MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR AN ERROR TO OCCUR, AND A DOZEN SAFEGUARDS WILL BE THROWN AROUND THE CHECKING OF THE SETS, AND THE PUBLIC WILL BE INVITED TO WITNESS THE CHECKING.

The seventy-seven titles as selected during the contest will be known only to the publisher, and the reputation of this newspaper stands as a guarantee to all contestants of an absolutely fair and impartial awarding of the prizes.

The Times-Dispatch is now compiling a list of about 5,000 book titles, from which will be selected the seventy-seven titles which the seventy-seven pictures will be drawn to represent. This catalog will be offered to the public shortly.

First Picture Will Appear on Sunday July 27

The principal features in connection with this contest are copyrighted by the Booklovers' Contest Co., San Francisco, Cal.